



BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY

CUSTOMER WATER USE AND RESERVOIR ACCOUNTING SUMMARY

What is an acre-foot?

An acre-foot is the volume of water required to cover one acre of land one foot deep with water. One acre-foot = 325,851 gallons.

What is the difference between firm, interruptible, lakeside local and Colorado basin water customers?

Firm water customers have contracts that are issued for terms longer than five years. These contracts supply municipalities, water supply districts, industries, agricultural producers and mining operations with a reliable long-term water source. All contracts contain a maximum annual use limit.

Interruptible water customers have contracts that are issued for a term of one year. These contracts primarily provide water for non-municipal purposes and are subject to being cutoff during droughts. The amount of interruptible water that is made available for sale is determined annually by the BRA Board of Directors.

Lakeside local customers are BRA customers with property adjacent to a reservoir. These customers have a permit with the BRA to use water from the reservoir for lawn watering and domestic uses.

Colorado basin customers are BRA firm water customers in Williamson County that receive some of their water supply from the Colorado basin. The BRA contracts with the Lower Colorado River Authority for up to 25,000 acre-feet of water annually. This water is transferred from the Colorado River basin into the Brazos River basin for use in Williamson County.

What is System Operation Permit water use?

This is water used under permit 5851 (System Operation Permit) by BRA firm or interruptible customers. The System Operation Permit, which was issued in 2016, allows the BRA to use naturally occurring flows (run-of-river) in the basin and return flows from wastewater treatment plants authorized within permit 5851.

EXPLANATION OF THE RESERVOIR ACCOUNTING GRAPHIC

The graphic is a comprehensive view of the factors that attributed to the loss or gain of water for each of the 11 reservoirs comprising the BRA System. Here is a description of the terms used in the graphic:

Water that Entered the Reservoirs

Inflow – This is the amount of water that entered into the reservoir from rivers and tributaries, surface runoff, releases from upstream reservoirs, and rain that fell directly on top of the reservoir.

Pumped in from Stillhouse – This is the amount of water that was pumped from Lake Stillhouse Hollow to Lake Georgetown through the Williamson County Regional Raw Water Line.

Water that Left the Reservoirs

Flood Release – This is the volume of water released during flood events when the reservoirs are at or above their normal full level.

Pumped out to Georgetown – This is the amount of water that was pumped from Lake Stillhouse Hollow to Lake Georgetown through the Williamson County Regional Raw Water Line.

Balancing Release to GB – This is water released from Possum Kingdom Reservoir to Lake Granbury to balance negative recreational impacts between the two reservoirs during dry times. These releases are governed by the 2011 *Brazos River Authority PK-Granbury-Whitney Water Management Study*, which can be found on BRA's website.

Hydroelectric Release – This is water released by the Brazos Electric Power Cooperative through the hydroelectric power generation facilities at Lake Whitney independent of BRA operations.

Senior Water Rights Pass-through – This is inflow that was required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Brazos Watermaster to be passed through the reservoir to downstream senior water right holders.

Undedicated Release (Leakage and/or Environmental Release) – This is water that was released for downstream environmental purposes or that naturally leaked through the dam (some leakage through a dam is a normal occurrence) and was not used for water supply.

Undedicated Release used for Water Supply – This is an undedicated release that was used by downstream customers for water supply.

Water Supply Release – This is the amount of water released through the dam for use by downstream water customers.

Lakeside Water Use – This is the amount of water that BRA customers used by pumping it directly from the reservoir.

Evaporation – This is the total amount of water lost from the reservoir as water from the reservoir surface turns to vapor through natural processes. The larger a reservoir's surface area is, the more water it loses to evaporation.